United Nations A/48/PV.105

General Assembly
Forty-eighth Session

Official Records

105th Meeting
Monday, 19 September 1994, 10.30 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Insanally ..... (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

Agenda item 8 *(continued)*

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work: request for the reopening of the consideration of agenda item 12 (Report of the Economic and Social Council): letters from the President of the Economic and Social Council (A/48/990, A/48/991)

The President: I would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to two letters from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to me and circulated as documents A/48/990 and A/48/991.

In the letter contained in document A/48/990, the President of the Economic and Social Council draws the attention of the Assembly to decision 1994/284 of 26 July 1994 of the Economic and Social Council, in which, *inter alia*, the Council recommended that the Assembly approve a recommendation of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) contained in its decision 94/12 to the effect that, instead of the merger proposed in Governing Council decision 93/42 of 18 June 1993, the Office for Project Services should become a separate and identifiable entity in a form that does not create a new agency and in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and other operational entities, whose administrative support, including that relating to financial and personnel matters, will continue to be provided by UNDP and that the Office should continue to work through the UNDP field network.

In the letter contained in document A/48/991, the President of the Economic and Social Council draws the attention of the General Assembly to decision 1994/285 of 26 July 1994, in which, *inter alia*, the Council endorsed decision 94/21 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund, in which, *inter alia*, the Board recommended to the Assembly that it allocate a plenary meeting during its forty-ninth session to the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the operations of the United Nations Population Fund.

In order for the Assembly to take action on these matters it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council". May I take it that the Assembly, on the proposal of the President of the Economic and Social Council, wishes to reopen consideration of agenda item 12?

It was so decided.

The President: May I further take it that, as proposed by the President of the Economic and Social Council, item 12 will be given priority consideration by the Assembly?

It was so decided.

94-86358 (E)

This record contains the original text of speeches delivered in English and interpretations of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to original speeches only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned, *within one week of the date of publication*, to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Section, Room C-178. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum. When the result of a recorded and/or roll-call vote is followed by an asterisk, see annex to the record.

The President: We shall proceed accordingly. I should like to inform members that a draft decision entitled "Office for Project Services" is now being circulated in the General Assembly Hall as document A/48/L.65.

Agenda item 12 *(continued)*

Report of the Economic and Social Council

(a) Letters dated 15 September 1994 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/48/990, A/48/991)

(b) Draft decision (A/48/L.65)

The President: In accordance with the decision just taken, the General Assembly will now resume its consideration of agenda item 12.

The Assembly will turn first to the letter dated 15 September 1994 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/48/990). In this connection, the Assembly has before it a draft decision entitled "Office for Project Services" (A/48/L.65).

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft decision A/48/L.65. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: I now draw the attention of members to document A/48/991. The Economic and Social Council recommends to the Assembly the allocation of a plenary meeting during the forty-ninth session to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Population Fund. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 12?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 16 *(continued)*

Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections

(b) Election of twelve members of the World Food Council

The President: In accordance with resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the General Assembly elects the members of the World Food Council upon nomination by the Economic and Social Council.

Members will recall that at its 54th meeting, held on 11 November 1993, the Assembly elected 10 States - namely, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Liberia, Malawi, Mexico, Pakistan, Sudan, Turkey and the United States of America - as members of the World Food Council. The Assembly then decided to keep item 12 (b) on the agenda of the forty-eighth session in order to enable the Assembly to act on the election of the two remaining members, upon nomination by the Economic and Social Council.

It is my understanding that the Economic and Social Council has postponed the nominations for the two remaining seats.

As members know, this item has been included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session. May I take it that the Assembly considers that discussion of this item at the present session is concluded?

It was so decided.

The President: This concludes our consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 16.

Agenda item 49 *(continued)*

Armed Israeli aggression against the Iraqi nuclear installations and its grave consequences for the established international system concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international peace and security

The President: Members may recall that on 24 September 1993 the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, and that by decision 48/436 of 20 December 1993 it further decided to defer consideration of this item to a later date during this session and to include it in the draft agenda of the forty-ninth session. As members know, this item has been included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session.

May I take it that the Assembly considers that discussion on this item at the present session is concluded?

It was so decided.

The President: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 49.

Agenda item 52

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

The President: Members may recall that on 24 September 1993 the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the present session.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of the forty-ninth session?

It was so decided.

The President: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 52.

Agenda item 24 *(continued)*

United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

The President: As members are aware, paragraph 17 of resolution 48/214 of 23 December 1993 decided that the Assembly would convene intensive consultations on the full range of issues related to the diversification of African economies. It also decided to take full account of the conclusion of those consultations at a resumed session of the Assembly.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to carry out the consultations envisaged in the resolution. In this connection, after having discussed this matter with concerned delegations, I should like to propose that, given the importance of this issue, the consultations be held at an appropriate time during the forty-ninth session.

In order for the Assembly to hold those consultations during the forty-ninth session, it must include the item entitled "United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s" in the agenda of the forty-ninth session.

May I take it, then, that it is the wish of the Assembly to include this item in the draft agenda of the forty-ninth session?

It was so decided.

The President: May I further take it that the Assembly considers that discussion of this item at the present session is concluded?

It was so decided.

The President: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 24.

Agenda item 54

Question of Cyprus

The President: Members may recall that on 24 September 1993 the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the present session, but deferred a decision on the allocation of the item to an appropriate time during the session.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of the forty-ninth session?

It was so decided.

The President: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 54.

Agenda item 55

Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait

The President: Members may recall that on 24 September 1993 the Assembly decided to include this item in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

It is my understanding that it would be desirable to defer consideration of this item to the forty-ninth session

of the General Assembly. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of the forty-ninth session?

It was so decided.

The President: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 55.

Agenda item 56

Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields

The President: Members will recall that by annex I to resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, adopted under agenda item 56, the Assembly stated that there was a need for a substantial increase of resources for operational activities. The Assembly decided, in this regard, that the process for facilitating the development of a new funding system would include consultations to be held in New York and negotiations on prospective new modalities for financing in a resumed session of the General Assembly in 1994.

I requested His Excellency Mr. Julio Martini Herrera of Guatemala, in his capacity as Vice-President of the General Assembly, to open the consultations on my behalf. I also asked His Excellency Mr. T. P. Sreenivasan of India to chair the consultations which took place on 21 June and 11 and 12 July 1994.

The report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/48/940 served as the basis for discussion.

During the discussion it was agreed that the process of consultations initiated at the current session would require a number of meetings which would have to be scheduled within the framework of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The objective of such consultations would be to reach concrete results as soon as possible, and no later than June 1995.

The next formal consultations would be scheduled in October, subject to a decision by the General Assembly to extend the consultation process at its forty-ninth session. It was also agreed that the focus of the next consultations would be financing needs, including the level of resources of the operational activities for development within the United Nations system. An effort would also be made to establish a timetable for the entire process, with a tentative list of topics to be considered with a view to achieving results in accordance with resolution 48/162.

In the light of the recommendations arising from the consultations, I should like to propose that the Assembly extend this consultation process to the forty-ninth session of the Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to extend the consultation process relating to paragraphs 31 to 34 of annex I to resolution 48/162 to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly?

It was so decided.

The President: I have not dwelled on the details of the discussions held, since time is very limited and we are in the process of concluding the forty-eighth session. However, the Chairman of the consultations, Ambassador Sreenivasan, has prepared a summary of the discussions. I should like to thank him very much for his efforts in that regard. I believe that the Secretariat will make appropriate arrangements to circulate the Chairman's summary, as an informal paper, in due course during the forty-ninth session, to facilitate the process of further consultation.

As members know, this item has been included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session.

May I take it that the Assembly considers that discussion of this item at the present session is concluded?

It was so decided.

The President: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 56.

Agenda item 114 *(continued)*

Human rights questions

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms: report of the Third Committee (Part VI) (A/48/632/Add.5)

The President: I should like to draw attention to a correction that has been made to the last paragraph of the

report, with the deletion of the words "on human rights" in lines 2 and 3. The paragraph will now read:

> "At its 59th meeting, on 15 September 1994, the Third Committee appointed Mr. Danilo Türk (Slovenia) Chairman of the Working Group and decided that the work of the Working Group should continue during the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly under item 103 (b) of the provisional agenda."

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of the report?

It was so decided.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 114?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 163

Programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991

The President: Members may recall that on 24 September 1993 the Assembly decided to include item 163 in the agenda of the present session and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to defer consideration of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of the forty-ninth session?

It was so decided.

The President: We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 163.

Agenda item 167 *(continued)*

Building a peaceful and better world through sport

The President: Members may recall that the Assembly has adopted resolutions 48/10 and 48/11 on this item.

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to defer further consideration of this item and to include it in the draft agenda of the forty-ninth session?

It was so decided.

The President: This concludes our consideration of agenda item 167.

Agenda item 40 *(continued)*

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/48/985)

(b) Draft resolution (A/48/L.63/Rev.2)

The President: I call on the representative of Mexico, who will introduce draft resolution A/48/L.63/Rev.2.

Mr. Flores Olea (Mexico) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: It is an honour for me to introduce, on behalf of the sponsors, draft resolution A/48/L.63/Rev.2, entitled "Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala".

In December of last year the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/161, in which it pointed out the importance of achieving a negotiated political solution to the situation in Guatemala and of resuming the talks between the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) and the Government of Guatemala in order to end the internal armed confrontation in the shortest possible time and to bring about national reconciliation and full respect for human rights in that country.

On that occasion the General Assembly encouraged the international community to continue providing the necessary assistance for the people of Guatemala to achieve, in the shortest possible time, its aspirations of peace, national reconciliation, democracy and development. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to support the peace process.

In fulfilment of that resolution the Secretary-General sponsored the consultations held between the parties, which culminated in the decision of the Government of Guatemala and of the URNG to resume peace talks, expressed in January of this year in the signing of the Framework Agreement for the Resumption of the Negotiating Process.

Within this framework, the parties have achieved significant understandings, such as the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and the Agreement on a Timetable for the Negotiation of a Firm and Lasting Peace in Guatemala, both signed on 29 March; the Agreement on Resettlement of the Population Groups Uprooted by the Armed Conflict, signed on 17 June; and the Agreement on the Establishment of the Commission to Clarify Past Human Rights Violations and Acts of Violence that have Caused the Guatemalan Population to Suffer, signed on 23 June.

The draft resolution under consideration by the General Assembly (A/48/L.63/Rev.2) today pays heed to the proposals put forward by the Secretary-General in his report (A/48/985) of 18 August 1994. The Secretary-General recommends that the General Assembly authorize the establishment, for an initial period of six months, of a United Nations human rights verification mission in Guatemala, in conformity with the points contained in his report and taking into account the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and the request by the parties that a verification mission be established as soon as possible, without waiting for the signing of the Agreement for a Firm and Lasting Peace.

In this connection, in draft resolution A/48/L.63/Rev.2, the Assembly would welcome the resumption of the negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the URNG and the signing on 14 January 1994 of the Framework Agreement; take note of the request, made by the parties in that Agreement, that the United Nations establish a mission to verify all agreements reached; welcome the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and the request contained in it for the United Nations to establish at the earliest possible date a mission to verify the implementation of that Agreement, even before the signature of the agreement on a firm and lasting peace; and point out the Assembly's wish to contribute to the efforts to ensure adequate protection of human rights in Guatemala.

I would also welcome the report of the Secretary-General and decide to establish a Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala in accordance with the recommendation contained in that report, for an initial period of six months - which in our view could be renewed if circumstances warrant.

In the draft resolution the international community would also be invited to support institution-building and cooperation projects in the area of human rights that could be implemented by the Mission for Verification.

We wish to place particular emphasis on the call made in the text for the parties to comply fully with the commitments undertaken under the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights to establish a vigorous process of negotiation and to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his representative.

Finally, in the draft resolution the Secretary-General is requested to keep the General Assembly informed of the implementation of the resolution.

Draft resolution A/48/L.63/Rev.2 constitutes another tool with which the international community can contribute to the efforts of the Guatemalan people to achieve a definitive peace in their country. It responds to the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/161 and, moreover, to the express request of the parties. At the same time it provides important support for the negotiation process between the Government of Guatemala and the URNG, the progress of which has been marked by the four agreements signed to date.

There is still a long way to go. We therefore appeal strongly to the parties to stay on the course of dialogue and negotiation. The people of Guatemala have waited too long. The international community is watching with interest.

We hope that this draft resolution, an expression of the efforts pledged by the international community to support the peace process in Guatemala, will be adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

Furthermore, we would like to draw to the attention of the Secretariat a mistake in the title of the mission that is being established. As can be seen in the original Spanish version of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights signed by the parties and reproduced in document A/48/928, the United Nations operation should be called "Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Agreement". I would request that the Secretariat make the corresponding correction in the resolution as adopted.

Lastly, I should like to convey to you, Mr. President, Ambassador Insanally, the sincerest

congratulations of my delegation for the outstanding and, indeed, brilliant way in which you have conducted the proceedings of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, which we are bringing to a close today. We thank you for your dedication, for your perseverance and for your diplomatic skills.

The President: I assure the representative of Mexico that the correction he has proposed will be duly made.

Mr. Londoño Paredes (Colombia) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: First of all, Mr. President, I should like to congratulate you, on my own behalf and on behalf of the delegation of Colombia on the way in which you have presided over the work of this Assembly. Your competence, your abilities and your wisdom, with which I have long been familiar, have been demonstrated in the extraordinary way in which you have carried out your functions during this session of the General Assembly.

The proposal before us today in draft resolution A/48/L.63/Rev.2 deserves the full support of the General Assembly. As one of the members of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General and as a sponsor of this draft resolution, Colombia, strongly supports the establishment of a mission for the verification of human rights in Guatemala.

Colombia has noted with satisfaction the resumption of the negotiations carried out under the auspices of the Secretary-General, between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). The year 1994 has seen the establishment of important arrangements which demonstrate the commitment and political will of the parties to find a peaceful and negotiated solution to the conflict in Guatemala.

The Framework Agreement for the Resumption of the Negotiating Process; the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights, which was under negotiation for more than two years; the Agreement on Resettlement of the Population Groups Uprooted by the Armed Conflict; and the Agreement of 23 June establishing the Commission to clarify past human rights violations and acts of violence together represent a set of commitments the implementation of which is essential to the ensuring of peace for the people of Guatemala on the basis of true national reconciliation.

The Government of Guatemala and the URNG have requested the United Nations to establish this verification mission which we are considering today. As Friends of the Secretary-General, we believe that this mission will mark significant progress towards a freer, more democratic and transparent society. Colombia, for its part, has offered its full and effective cooperation with the mission and will be participating in it.

As sponsors of this draft resolution, we would like to emphasize in particular paragraph 5, which states:

> "Also calls upon the parties to pursue a vigorous process of negotiation, as agreed by them in the Framework Agreement and the Agreement on a Timetable for the Negotiation of a Firm and Lasting Peace in Guatemala, and to this end to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his representative in their efforts". *(A/48/L.63/Rev.2, para. 5)*

Both parties must continue to demonstrate flexibility and political will in order to ensure the successful conclusion of these negotiations. The negotiations have not been easy and, on a number of occasions, they have been deadlocked. These deadlocks have been overcome only because the parties demonstrated maturity and commitment.

The international community supports the important work of reconciliation that is being carried out by the Government of Guatemala and the URNG.

Mr. Bivero (Venezuela) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Venezuela would like first of all to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the excellent way in which you have conducted the proceedings of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Your contribution does honour to you, to your country, Guyana, and to all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Venezuela, as a member country of the Group of Friends of the peace process in Guatemala, and as a country that has close ties of fraternity and cooperation with Guatemala, cannot fail to express its gratification at the demonstration of support being offered to Guatemala by the international community through the draft resolution which the General Assembly is considering today in the search for ways of eliminating the causes of the conflict that has afflicted that nation for over 30 years.

The establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala as called for in the Framework Agreement for the Resumption of the Negotiating Process, signed in January 1994, represents

a step of extreme importance for the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights approved on 29 March last. None the less, we must not forget that that Mission is only one part of a much broader commitment, and for that reason it is absolutely essential that the parties show their real will to comply with the provisions of the Agreement on Human Rights and those of the Agreement on a Timetable for the Negotiation of a Firm and Lasting Peace in Guatemala, the initial deadlines for which have, unfortunately, not yet been met.

Despite these regrettable delays, we wish to express our satisfaction and to congratulate the parties on the significant progress represented by the signing three months ago of the Agreement on Resettlement of the Population Groups Uprooted by the Armed Conflict and the Agreement on the Establishment of the Commission to Clarify Past Human Rights Violations and Acts of Violence that have Caused the Guatemalan Population to Suffer. The achievement of those agreements, which are of special importance on matters of great sensitivity for Guatemalan society, is a clear sign that there is indeed a way, and that the efforts of the parties are valid and necessary. We have seen that the Guatemalan Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) have the capacity and the will to resolve their differences at the negotiating table. We therefore want to express our concern at the stagnation of the talks and to urge all the parties concerned to continue the peace process without further delay until the final signature of the Agreement for a Firm and Lasting Peace.

We take the opportunity to reaffirm once more Venezuela's readiness to continue its active participation in the Group of Friends to cooperate with the efforts of the Secretary-General and to praise the work of the Secretary-General and of the Moderator he appointed. The United Nations has maintained its firm commitment to human rights, peace, development and justice in Guatemala, but war and its consequences cannot be prevented if the main protagonists are not committed to that goal. We know that there is a solution to the conflict in Guatemala, and we are confident that the parties will be able to find it. This is the wish of the international community and the hope of the people of Guatemala and of Venezuela, its friend.

Mr. Gjesdal (Norway): Norway considers the establishment and subsequent deployment of a human rights verification mission in Guatemala a significant step forward in the peace process. A United Nations presence of that nature in Guatemala ought to induce the parties to the armed conflict to respect their commitments. It will give renewed hope to the civilian sectors in Guatemala that peace, reconstruction and national reconciliation may become a reality.

Norway feels a special concern for the peace process in Guatemala. It was in Oslo that an agreement was reached in March 1990 which laid the foundations for the negotiations between the Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). These negotiations now have an agenda and a timetable, and the draft resolution on the human rights verification mission in Guatemala ought to contribute to getting the parties back to the negotiating table before the end of the month to reach an agreement on the very important issue of the identity and the rights of the indigenous population.

The recent ecumenical consultation held in Oslo on peace and democracy in Guatemala showed clearly that the people of Guatemala are getting impatient to see progress in the negotiating process. But in order to change Guatemala into a more just, prosperous and democratic society great efforts will be required from all Guatemalans. If the democratic institutions of Guatemala are not representative today, it is a challenge to the civilian sectors to make them work in a more representative manner through broader participation and confidence-building between the various sectors. If the Guatemalans are prepared to show the way in the pacification, reconciliation and reconstruction of their nation, the Group of Friends and the rest of the international community will certainly be prepared to show solidarity and provide assistance.

The establishment and deployment of a human rights verification mission is an important milestone on the road to a better Guatemala.

Mr. Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Since the Esquipulas process began seven years ago in Central America, a region riven by civil conflict and tormented by grave social and economic problems, the countries of the region have come a long way. Today we can say that many of the conflicts have ended, with a satisfactory outcome and that the foundation has been laid for resolving their underlying causes, with respect for democratic institutions and the rule of law.

In the case of Guatemala, too, there has been notable progress in the process of overcoming political

and social antagonism, although there have been problems and delays in various stages of the process. We are now at a critical phase, which began last January with the signing in Mexico City of the Framework Agreement on the resumption of the negotiating process by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). This laid down the terms for continuing the peace negotiations, which had ground to a halt some months before.

An immediate result of the resumption of dialogue between the Government and the URNG was the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and the Agreement on a Timetable for the Negotiation of a Firm and Lasting Peace in Guatemala, which were signed on 29 March. Subsequently, on 17 June, both parties signed the Agreement on Resettlement of the Population Groups Uprooted by the Armed Conflict, and on 23 June they signed the Agreement on the Establishment of the Commission to Clarify Past Human Rights Violations and Acts of Violence that have Caused the Guatemalan Population to Suffer, known as the "Commission to Clarify the Past".

The process of negotiations between the Guatemalan parties must continue in the coming months in accordance with the timetable to which they have agreed and must result in the establishment of a lasting peace.

It is important to stress the importance of the role played in this process by the Secretary-General and the Moderator of the peace negotiations, Mr. Jean Arnault, whose work deserves the recognition and praise of the General Assembly.

Since the beginning of the negotiations the Group of Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process, of which Spain is a member, has been assisting both the Secretary-General and the parties. The Group will continue most willingly to play this role in order to help the process come to a fruitful end.

The members of the General Assembly are well aware of Spain's determined and lasting commitment to promoting all necessary efforts for the establishment of a lasting peace in Guatemala. The Government of Spain believes that such a peace can be achieved only through negotiations between the parties, to which Spain has given its full support both through its own initiatives and through its participation in the Group of Friends. As a clear demonstration of this commitment, my delegation has joined in sponsoring draft resolution A/48/L.63/Rev.2, which was introduced by the representative of Mexico on behalf of the sponsors, and which is now before the Assembly for consideration and action.

The draft resolution, which endorses the proposals of the Secretary-General in his report (A/48/985) of 18 August 1994, would establish a Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights, in response to a request by the Government of Guatemala and the URNG, contained in the Agreement of 29 March, that the United Nations verify compliance by the parties with the commitments of the Agreement.

This step, while very important, is only one of many to be taken in order to adhere to the timetable for negotiating and signing of an agreement on a firm and lasting peace.

To this end, the parties must continue to demonstrate flexibility and a spirit of compromise, as, commendably, they had been doing until recently, when difficulties arose in keeping to the schedule planned in the negotiating rounds.

My delegation wishes to emphasize the importance we attach to the appeal in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution that the parties pursue vigorously the agreed process of negotiation.

I therefore appeal to the Government of Guatemala and to the URNG to continue with the assistance of the Moderator, Mr. Arnault, to cooperate with the Secretary-General and without delay deal with the outstanding issues in the timetable of negotiations with a view to concluding an overall peace agreement as soon as possible.

Guatemala has begun a process in which problems and difficulties will certainly arise. However, the prospects are good, and we are confident that peace is close at hand. We hope that the parties to the process will meet the expectations of the people of Guatemala by making every effort to crown this process with success.

I should like, Mr. President, to express our appreciation to you once again, on behalf of the Spanish delegation, and our congratulations on the way in which you have conducted the work of the forty-eighth session, which is coming to a close today in such an outstanding and positive way.

Mr. Marrero (United States of America): On behalf of my delegation, I want to commend you, Sir, and express our appreciation for the manner in which you have presided over the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly and for all the achievements it has made under your leadership.

Today's agreement to adopt by consensus the resolution to authorize a human rights verification mission for Guatemala is a critical step in fulfilling the international community's commitment to support peace and democracy in Guatemala.

The United States Government, together with our partners in the western hemisphere, stood with the people of Guatemala in opposing the *autogolpe* of former President Serrano last year.

Today the members of the United Nations have the opportunity to reaffirm our dedication to the efforts of all Guatemalans to seek peaceful solutions to their problems. The United Nations made a historic contribution to the resolution of the Salvadoran civil war. Through this demonstration of support for the Guatemalan peace process, the United Nations can help to end the longest armed conflict in Central America.

We are proud to join with the other Friends of the Guatemalan Peace Process in supporting this draft resolution. With its passage, the burden will shift to the parties to redouble their efforts at the negotiating table to reach a prompt and just comprehensive settlement.

The President: I should like to inform representatives that we are still awaiting the report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/48/L.63/Rev.2. I must therefore postpone further discussion of the item. We shall have to reconvene this afternoon, when this item will be the first to be considered.

Programme of work

The President: I should like to inform members that we will take up agenda item 123, "Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995", as the second item this afternoon.

I remind delegations that the following agenda items, on which action has been taken at previous meetings, have remained open for consideration during the forty-eighth session of the Assembly.

Item 7	Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations
Item 10	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization
Item 31	The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti
Item 35	Question of Palestine
Item 36	Law of the sea
Item 42	The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Item 47	Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995
Item 114 (c)	Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives
Item 120	Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors
Item 121	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations
Item 122	Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993
Item 124	Improving the financial situation of the United Nations
Item 127	Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations
Item 130	Financing of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in the Middle East
Item 131	Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission
Item 132	Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)
Item 133	Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Item 134	Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador
Item 135	Financing of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia
Item 136	Financing of the United Nations Protection Force
Item 137	Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II
Item 138	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations
Item 149	Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique
Item 160	Financing of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus
Item 162	Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
Item 164	Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda
Item 165	Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti
Item 166	Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia
Item 168	Personnel questions
Item 170	The situation in Burundi
Item 174	Financing of the United Nations Military Liaison Team in Cambodia

As members are aware, these items have been included in the provisional agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

May I take it that the Assembly considers that discussion of these items at the present session is concluded?

It was so decided.

The President: This concludes our consideration of the aforementioned items.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.

United Nations

A/48/PV.106

General Assembly

Forty-eighth Session

Official Records

106th Meeting

Monday, 19 September 1994, 3 p.m.

New York

President: Mr. Insanally ..... (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

Agenda item 40 *(continued)*

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

(a) Report of the Secretary-General (A/48/985)

(b) Draft resolution (A/48/L.63/Rev.2)

(c) Report of the Fifth Committee (A/48/992)

The President: As mentioned this morning, the Assembly has before it a draft resolution (A/48/L.63/Rev.2) entitled "Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala".

I wish to inform the Assembly that Ecuador has become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution is now available as document A/48/992.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/48/L.63/Rev.2?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 48/267).

Mr. Martini Herrera (Guatemala) *(interpretation from Spanish):* After the very clear and specific statements representatives of the Group of the Guatemalan Peace Process made today, the General Assembly's adopted draft resolution A/48/L.63/Rev.2 by consensus.

My delegation is very pleased to state for the record my country's gratitude for the understanding shown to the Government of Guatemala for the importance it attaches to the speedy establishment of the Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala and compliance with the provisions of the Agreement. We are also pleased to second the gratitude already expressed for the role played in the negotiations by the Secretary-General and also by the Moderator. In addition, we would like to thank the Group of Friends, whose assistance has proved invaluable in the development of this process that seeks to put an end to armed conflict - the cause of most of the human rights violations in my country.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and each and every one of the representatives, particularly those of the

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Fifth Committee, whose hard work and dedication made it possible for this resolution to be adopted by consensus at this forty-eighth session.

The adoption of this resolution constitutes a necessary step forward in ensuring that the process of negotiation to achieve a firm and lasting peace in Guatemala, which has been successful so far, recovers the vitality it had in the first semester of this year: six agreements were reached in six months on very sensitive and delicate issues, in the midst of a lengthy confrontation.

My people had been impatiently awaiting this resolution, which constitutes nothing less than a rebirth of credibility. In the same way, the establishment and efficient action of the Mission will again make it possible for the time-table of negotiations to show the way to the end of a nightmare, so that my country will be able to dedicate its efforts to seeking social and economic well-being, as must be the case for the members of this community.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 40?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 123

Programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995: report of the Fifth Committee (Part VI) (A/48/811/Add.5)

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft decision recommended by the Fifth Committee in paragraph 3 of part VI of its report (A/48/811/Add.5).

The draft decision was adopted by the Fifth Committee without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do likewise?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 123?

It was so decided.

Closing address by the President

The President: I should like now, with your indulgence, to offer some concluding remarks at this final meeting of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

Comprising 184 nations - the near universality and wide diversity of mankind - this Assembly solemnly undertook to advance through this year the mission for which the United Nations was established: to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations and peoples; and, through multilateral cooperation, to deal effectively with the economic, social and humanitarian issues that affect mankind's existence on this planet.

From the beginning, we approached our work in a constructive spirit and with a forward-looking attitude, which, I am pleased to note, were sustained throughout the year. The resolutions and decisions adopted in this Hall, following patient negotiations in conference rooms and in the corridors, show that with goodwill there are no limits to the possible and that many things for which our peoples have long hoped and prayed for are these days increasingly within our grasp. We realized that the present historical conjuncture offered new opportunities for consensus and progress. Working with a sense of common, indeed global, interests, while avoiding needless confrontation, this session of the Assembly has demonstrated what can be accomplished in the spirit of cooperation.

It is not for me to judge if we rose to the measure of events. But certainly even an arbitrary and partial selection of the resolutions and decisions adopted will show that we have worked assiduously towards world peace, towards world development and towards strengthening the capacities of the United Nations to carry out its mission of peace and development.

Uppermost in our minds have been the first words of the Charter: "We the peoples". Our deliberations invariably transcended national boundaries and dealt directly with people issues: when we considered the worldwide scourge of drug abuse and pledged new support for a global plan of action; when we reviewed the humanitarian work of the Organization and gave it full endorsement; when we examined the universality of human rights and took decisions to translate into practical measures the Declaration of the Vienna Conference, most notably through the establishment of the Office of the

High Commissioner for Human Rights; or when we launched the International Year of the Family. In each of these cases, and many others, the representatives of non-governmental bodies shared our reflections and supported our goals.

During this Assembly also, we successfully concluded our negotiations on the law of the sea - without doubt the most important international treaty since the Charter. We also set in motion the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of Humanitarian Law committed in the Territory of the former Yugoslavia since 1991. In this and many other ways, the General Assembly reflected the concern of nations to have a world governed by law, not by force or by terror or by a balance of terror.

In our continuing quest for a safe and stable world, regional organizations, which already contribute so much to peacemaking, have now begun to meet together under United Nations auspices to share the lessons of experience which can apply to the Agenda for Peace and help the organization satisfy mankind's longing to put an end to war. Reflecting the post-cold-war spirit of cooperation, the General Assembly endorsed the decision of the Conference on Disarmament to negotiate a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty, which we hope in our lifetime can lead to the elimination of these horrific weapons.

Let me single out three developments that to my mind clearly illustrate the considerable progress that has been made towards achieving global peace and security. When it adopted its first resolution on 8 October lifting sanctions on South Africa, the Assembly was literally speechless. Later, in a historic session, the Assembly joyously welcomed back this founding Member into its family. The progress of South Africa's peoples in resolving their conflicts represents the triumph over racism of a spirit of dialogue and consultation. There can be no doubt that the firm stand taken over the years by the General Assembly in applying the principles of the Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights contributed to the amazing changes in that country. The resolutions on the Middle East marked historic developments that few could have anticipated. The General Assembly gave strong political support to the peace process in the region, which, we hope, notwithstanding obstacles still remaining, will proceed steadily forward. And now today, a principled stand has culminated in a breakthrough, which, if sustained, promises the restoration of peace and democracy to the troubled land of Haiti.

Such developments as in South Africa, the Middle East and Haiti encourage us to view with hope for peaceful outcomes the otherwise disheartening conflicts and civil wars which persist in Afghanistan, in many States of the former Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia, and in East, Central and West Africa. The cost of conflict is heavy not only for its immediate victims but also for those who must pay for its resolution. At a time of scarce resources for development, we can ill afford the large cost of humanitarian and other rescue operations which preventive diplomacy and a relatively small investment in a United Nations presence could avoid.

(spoke in Spanish)

Let me turn now to the area of development. Guided by the Secretary-General's first report, the Assembly has begun serious consideration of the United Nations role in an Agenda for Development. The broad-based consultations which were held in June last in accordance with resolution 48/166 reaffirmed the mutuality of interest of developed and developing countries. The world hearings, in which both governmental and non-governmental representatives participated, advocated a greater role by the United Nations in the promotion of the Agenda.

It was also felt that development was being pursued largely outside the Organization and needed to be returned to its original niche which the Charter provides. In this scheme of things, the Bretton Woods institutions would be brought more directly under the United Nations umbrella for greater coordination of all development efforts. Other agencies might be merged to minimize duplication and overlap of activities and to maximize the use of available funding. Also envisaged by many was the empowerment of the Economic and Social Council to oversee the global economy.

These various proposals, which may be considered far-reaching and radical by some, in my view reflect a prevailing dissatisfaction with the present role of the United Nations in development activities as well as a generalized impatience to secure a revitalization of the world economy. Past policies and strategies have obviously failed to show improvement and must now be seriously reconsidered with a view to making much needed progress.

(spoke in French)

A concerted international effort is clearly required to bring about sustainable world development. The essential dynamic is political will, which has been noticeably lacking thus far. It is therefore devoutly to be hoped that the World Social Summit scheduled to take place in Copenhagen next year will summon the awareness and the commitment that are so urgently required for progress to be made.

The three main areas on which the Summit will focus - poverty, unemployment and social integration - are the concern not only of the developing countries but also of the industrialized nations. Poverty is not confined only to the South. Unemployment, the plague of small and poor economies, has become a major problem for the North. In both North and South, the problems of homelessness, disease and all manner of societal degradation have taken root. The time has come when the concepts of interdependence and international cooperation must be translated into practice to combat these evils which threaten our civilization.

(spoke in English)

May I now say a word on the Assembly's activities in gearing up the United Nations system to deal with our new circumstances. We found ways this year to resolve an impasse over the relations of the Economic and Social Council with the operating agencies. Here, I remain grateful to our colleague, the Ambassador of Benin, for assisting me in this effort. However, the Assembly's main exercise has been to become a Committee of the Whole - in effect, to examine all aspects of the role of the Security Council, the body charged by the Charter with special responsibilities for peacemaking and peace-keeping.

The Assembly's decision to create an open-ended Working Group to consider the questions of equitable representation on, an increase in the membership of, and all matters related to the Security Council was a timely initiative to preserve the United Nations efficacy as the custodian of world peace.

It was my honour to preside over this important body and, as such, I would venture to say that we have made a good beginning in our search for a more effective, open and representative Council. The views submitted by Member States were so succinct and clear that already one can discern the broad lineaments of what the Security Council might come to look like. I am very grateful to all delegations and to my two dynamic Vice-Chairmen, the Ambassadors of Finland and Singapore, for their contributions, as well as to the efficient Secretariat officials who helped us to advance our work during this session.

Quite understandably, it may take some time before these views are transformed into bases of agreement. The fact that all the issues are interlinked will require simultaneous progress on all fronts. Meanwhile, several important steps have been taken to establish better communication between the Council and the Assembly. Such initiatives, I believe, serve to develop a more cooperative relationship between these two organs and bring them into a harmonious balance under the Charter.

I come now to the further question of United Nations Secretariat reform and financing. The General Assembly approved a budget for 1994-1995 reflecting much of the restructuring which the Secretary-General deemed necessary to allow the United Nations Secretariat to continue to reinvent itself and to perform more effectively. Later, the Assembly established an Office of Internal Oversight Services and appointed its first Head. These measures, however, do not address the fundamental problem of States' failing to meet, and on time, the financial obligations they have as Members of the Organization and as signatories to its Charter. The United Nations, it must be reiterated, cannot function effectively unless adequately endowed with human and financial resources to carry out its missions of peace and development. To the extent that assessed budgetary obligations are unfulfilled, this part of the business of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly remains unfinished. We therefore urge all States to show their commitment by meeting their obligations to the United Nations and to the world.

All things considered, the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly has been remarkably active. Not only were the issues on its agenda comprehensive but the pace of its work was greatly intensified. This, in my view, is indicative of the Assembly's desire to reclaim the patrimony bequeathed to it under the Charter. Now that the constraints of the cold war have been removed, the Assembly is poised to play its proper role in international affairs.

The Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly has produced, under the diligent co-chairmanship of the Ambassadors of Sri Lanka and Uganda, a further report. I am pleased to note that the President of the Assembly has been asked to propose, following consultations, ways and means of facilitating an

in-depth discussion by the Assembly of matters contained in the reports submitted by the Security Council. This step will certainly involve, and give a greater say to, the Assembly in the vital issues of international peace and security. I do not see why the same cannot apply to the reports of other organs.

The role given to the Assembly under the Charter is, in my view, a major one. If justice is to be done to it, the Assembly must continue to examine seriously its methods and procedures to see whether they are both efficient and effective. I therefore urge the Working Group to expedite its consideration of this important matter and quickly devise measures for further improvement. I would personally hope that among these would be one designed to provide adequate resources to the Office of the President. Experience shows that as the activities of the Assembly increase so too will the responsibilities of the presidency.

I have been truly privileged to have had the opportunity of serving as President of the Assembly during this most exciting year. Now that I am about to demit office, I wish to reiterate my gratitude for the full support which I have received at all times from my own Government, from the Latin American and Caribbean Group, which did me the great honour of nominating me to the presidency, and, indeed, from all Member States. I am indebted particularly to the Vice-Presidents and the Committee Chairmen, who contributed greatly to the positive outcome of this session.

On behalf of the Assembly, I wish to offer a special word of thanks to the Secretary-General and his dedicated staff for facilitating the discharge of our many responsibilities. We remain deeply appreciative of the full and ready cooperation offered by the General Assembly Affairs staff and by our ever-helpful interpreters and other Conference Services personnel. Last, but by no means least, I wish to thank most warmly my own small staff, who performed yeoman service to ensure that the President's Office worked smoothly at all times. Their faithful efforts cannot be praised enough.

Let me conclude on the same note as that on which I began the presidency. At this turning point in human history, the United Nations needs to renew and restructure itself in order to become more responsive to the changing circumstances of the world today. To do so successfully, however, we must - like the authors of the Charter - have a clear vision of the world we want to build for the twenty-first century. As we are reminded by the Book of Proverbs,

> "Where there is no vision, the people perish". *(The Holy Bible, Proverbs 29:18)*

So, too, may the United Nations, unless we give urgent thought to how we enable it to truly become, as was envisaged in its Charter, a centre for harmonizing the actions of Member States to achieve their common ends.

Agenda item 2 *(continued)*

Minute of silent prayer or meditation

The President: As is traditional, I shall before closing this session invite the Assembly to spend a minute in silent prayer or meditation. I have always thought this a good practice, for sometimes silence can indeed be more eloquent and enlightening than speech. As George Santayana declared,

> "O world, thou choosest not the better part!
> It is not wisdom to be only wise,
> And on the inward vision close the eyes,
> But it is wisdom to believe the heart."

Let us therefore use this minute of silence to listen to our hearts and, holding fast to an inward vision of a better world, hasten to translate it into reality.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silent prayer or meditation.

Closure of the session

The President: I declare closed the forty-eighth session of the Assembly.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.